

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8641

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US, UN

SUBJECT: KOREA IN 30TH UNGA: ROK SUGGESTION FOR POST-PLENARY
ACTION

1. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH DCM NOV. 6, ACTING FONMIN LHO SHIN YONG SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY FONMIN KIM DONG JO TO PASS TO DEPARTMENT THROUGH EMBASSY SEOUL RECOMMENDATION THAT FOLLOWING PLENARY DEBATE, US AND ROK GOVERNMENTS EITHER JOINTLY OR CONCURRENTLY ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT REITERATING ESSENCE OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, EMPHASIZING CALL FOR CONFERENCE AMONG NATIONS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH KOREAN ISSUE (PRC, DPRK, ROK AND US) AND CALLING UPON UN SECGEN WALDHEIM TO EXERCISE HIS GOOD OFFICES IN BRINGING CONFERENCE ABOUT. PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE APPARENTLY WOULD BE TO DRAW WORLD PUBLIC ATTENTION TO PROVISIONS OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, WHICH FONMIN APPARENTLY FEELS MAY HAVE BEEN LOST IN POLITICAL MANEUVERING DURING UNGA DEBATES AND TO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SOME MOMENTUM IN DIRECTION FAVORABLE TO ROKG INTERESTS. LHO MADE SUGGESTION OFFICIALLY TO AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 7.

2. SUGGESTION MAY ALSO BE RELATED TO PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DISINCLINATION OF PRESIDENT PARK AND MANY SENIOR ROKG OFFICIALS TO AVOID FUTURE UN DEBATE ON KOREAN ISSUE. LHO SAID EMPHATICALLY ROKG CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE TIME, ENERGY AND MONEY
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ON THIS FUTILE EXERCISE AND THAT SOME MEANS MUST BE FOUND

TO REMOVE KOREAN ISSUE FROM UN FORUM.

3. ON INTERNAL SIDE, LHO SAID HE EXPECTED INTENSIVE GRILLING IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY OVER OUTCOME OF UNGA POLITICAL COMMITTEE VOTE ON KOREAN ISSUE. HE SAID NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MOOD OF ANTAGONISM TOWARD FONMIN KIM PERSONALLY HAS OBVIOUSLY DEEPENED AND THAT INTERPELLATIONS WOULD REFLECT THIS. OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO FONMIN'S OWN POSITION, HE SAID, WAS FACT THAT BLUE HOUSE CONFIDENCE IN FONMIN HAS ALSO WEAKENED TO POINT WHERE FUTURE OF HIS TENURE NOW CLEARLY IN DOUBT. HE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, SPECULATE AS TO HOW LONG FONMIN WOULD LAST OR WHETHER THERE ANY PLANS NOW TO REPLACE HIM.

SNEIDER

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